



NEWS RELEASE

DEFENSE FINANCE AND ACCOUNTING SERVICE

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For External Release

Stearns Inducted as Member of Government's Senior Executive Service

COLUMBUS, Ohio (Feb 7, 2003) -- Martha Stearns, the director of Contract Pay Services at the Defense Finance and Accounting Service, was inducted into the ranks of the Senior Executive Service on February 5, and will serve as the Deputy Director of Commercial Pay Services, DFAS Columbus in her initial SES posting.

The SES is a cadre of civilian career executives responsible for ensuring that the senior management of the government is responsive to the needs, policies and goals of the American people.

As director of the Contract Pay Product Line, headquartered at DFAS Columbus, Stearns oversaw contract payments for the Department of Defense's major weapons systems contracts, a \$90 billion-per-year business, processing over one million payments per year, to over 17,000 contractors worldwide.

"I am dedicated to serving our customers by providing effective and efficient accounting and financial services to our military members," Stearns said.

Previously, Stearns served as the director of Air Force Working Capital Fund Reporting at DFAS Denver, and as the director of General Fund Accounting Services at DFAS Charleston, SC. Prior to that, she was the deputy director for Plans and Management at DFAS Cleveland. Stearns began her career as a Defense Department civilian employee at the Naval Construction Battalion Center, Port Hueneme, Calif., as a systems accountant. She has 21 years of federal service, and is a member of the American Society of Military Comptrollers.

Stearns, a native of Easton, Calif., holds a Bachelor of Science degree in accounting from California State University, Fresno.

About DFAS

The Defense Finance and Accounting Service is the world's largest finance and accounting operation. In fiscal 2002, DFAS paid 5.7 million people, processed more than 11.2 million contractor invoices, made 7.3 million travel payments and disbursed more than \$346.6 billion while reducing overall costs to customers by \$144 million. For more about the Defense Finance and Accounting Service, please visit <http://www.dfas.mil>.

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